

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH URGES PARTICIPATION IN QUIZ FOR NATIONAL DAY  
TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY**

(RICHMOND, Va.)— The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) urges parents, educators and teens to visit [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org) on May 4 to participate in the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Quiz. The National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is part of a month-long effort to focus attention on teenage pregnancy and related issues. Participation in the quiz emphasizes the importance of teens acting responsibly to avoid unwanted pregnancy.

“We are encouraged by the recent decrease in teen pregnancy rates in Virginia, but there is still room for improvement,” said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H. “There are still localities and age groups that have rates above national averages.”

The rate of teen pregnancy is declining in Virginia. The teen pregnancy rate in 1988 was 47.7 per 1,000 females ages 10 to 19. By 2003, this rate had declined to 27.4 per 1,000 females, ranking Virginia 23rd among the 50 states in teen pregnancy.

In 2003, the last year for which statistics were available, there were 13,665 pregnancies reported among teenagers in Virginia. Further reduction of teen pregnancy through prevention efforts continues to be a priority for VDH.

Twenty-seven Virginia cities and counties have teen pregnancy rates for ages 15 to 17 higher than the national average of 41.7 pregnancies per 1,000 females.

The National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy activity is a short, scenario-based quiz that asks young people what they would do in a number of sexual situations.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy reports these findings from those who participated in the 2004 quiz:

- 55 percent of teens said the national quiz made the consequences of sex more real to them.
- 79 percent said the quiz made them think about what they would do in such situations.

For more information about local teen pregnancy rates and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, visit [www.vahealth.org/teenpregnancyprevention](http://www.vahealth.org/teenpregnancyprevention).

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